

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Confirmation No. 3272

Masao IENO et al.

Attorney Docket No. 2005_2019A

Serial No. 10/563,633

Group Art Unit 4161

Filed January 6, 2006

Examiner T. Simmons-Willis

SUSTAINED-RELEASE POLYMER FOR

Mail Stop: AMENDMENT

AMINO ACID DERIVATIVE, COSMETIC

AND FIBER STRUCTURE CONTAINING THE

SAME AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING AND

FOR REGENERATING THE SAME

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action of October 2, 2008, constituting a requirement for restriction among Groups I-V, Applicants hereby elect the subject matter of Group I, i.e. claims 1-14, drawn to a sustained-release polymer. This election is made while reserving Applicants' rights under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file a divisional application for the non-elected subject matter of claims 15-22.

The Examiner places claim 21 in Group V. However, like claims 17-18, claim 21 is drawn to a fiber structure. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 21 should be grouped with Group IV instead of Group V.

The Examiner characterizes the Group V claims as being drawn to a method of making a fiber structure. However, claims 20 and 22 are directed to a method for regeneration of a sustained-released polymer, rather than the method of making a fiber structure.

Action on the merit is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Masao IENO et al.

Michael R. Davis

Registration No. 25,134 Attorney for Applicants

MRD/rgf Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 November 3, 2008